

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

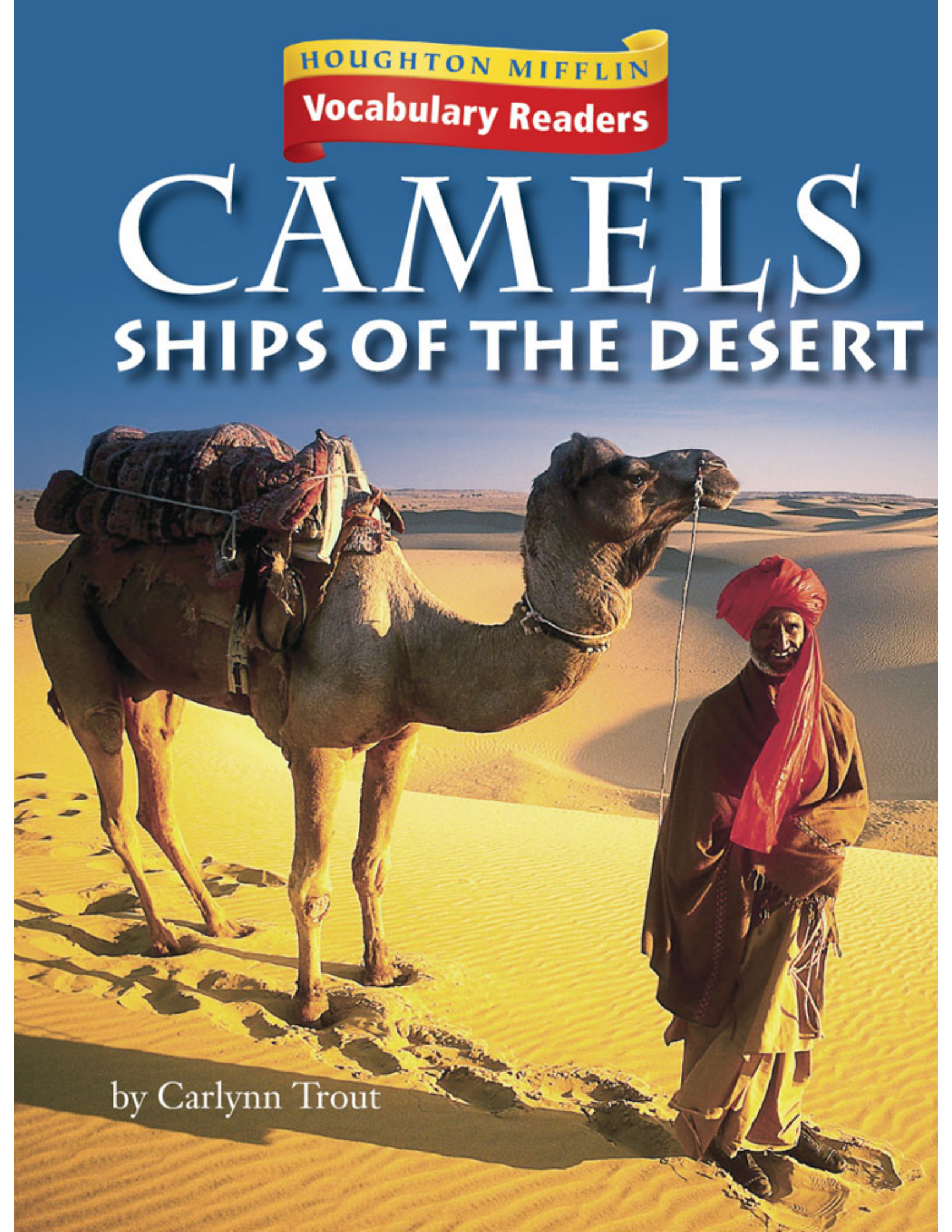
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Vocabulary Readers

CAMELS

SHIPS OF THE DESERT

by Carlynn Trout

A full-page photograph of a man in traditional Middle Eastern attire, including a red turban and a brown robe, leading a brown camel. The camel is carrying a large, patterned saddlebag. They are standing on a sand dune in a vast, arid desert landscape under a clear blue sky. The man is holding a rope attached to the camel's halter. The camel is facing right, and the man is looking towards the camera.

Number of Words: 667

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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MAP CREDIT

11 Joe LeMonnier

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CAMELS

SHIPS OF THE DESERT



by Carlynn Trout



Strategy Focus

As you read, **monitor** how well you understand camels' survival in the desert. Reread to **clarify** anything that seems unclear.



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BOSTON

Key Vocabulary

bartering trading goods without exchanging money

caravans vehicles or pack animals traveling together

entourage group of followers

flourishing doing very well

goods items for sale

oasis a green place with water in a desert

primary main

vicinity area around a place

Word Teaser

If you are **bartering** for _____, you hope they are not bad.

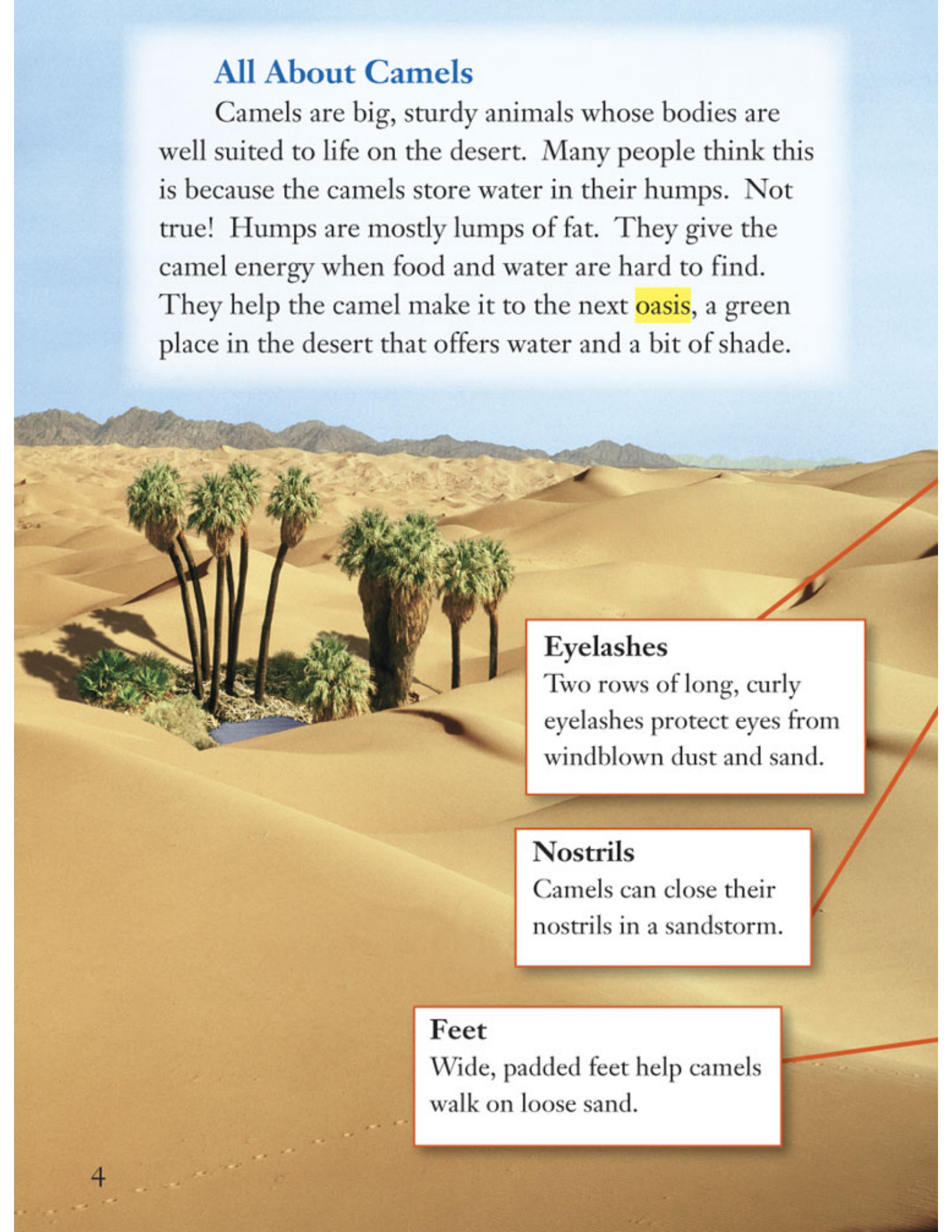


Hot, Dry, and Sandy

Most deserts are hot, sandy areas with few plants or animals. Deserts usually get less than ten inches of rain a year. The climate has always made desert travel difficult for people. But long ago, people discovered a strange-looking animal **flourishing** in this harsh climate. This creature was very good at traveling in the desert. Maybe it could help people get where they needed to go.

All About Camels

Camels are big, sturdy animals whose bodies are well suited to life on the desert. Many people think this is because the camels store water in their humps. Not true! Humps are mostly lumps of fat. They give the camel energy when food and water are hard to find. They help the camel make it to the next **oasis**, a green place in the desert that offers water and a bit of shade.

The background image is a photograph of a desert landscape. It features rolling sand dunes in the foreground and middle ground. In the center-left, there is an oasis with several tall palm trees and a small, dark pool of water. In the far background, there are low, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky. Three red lines originate from the right side of the image and point towards the three text boxes on the right.

Eyelashes

Two rows of long, curly eyelashes protect eyes from windblown dust and sand.

Nostrils

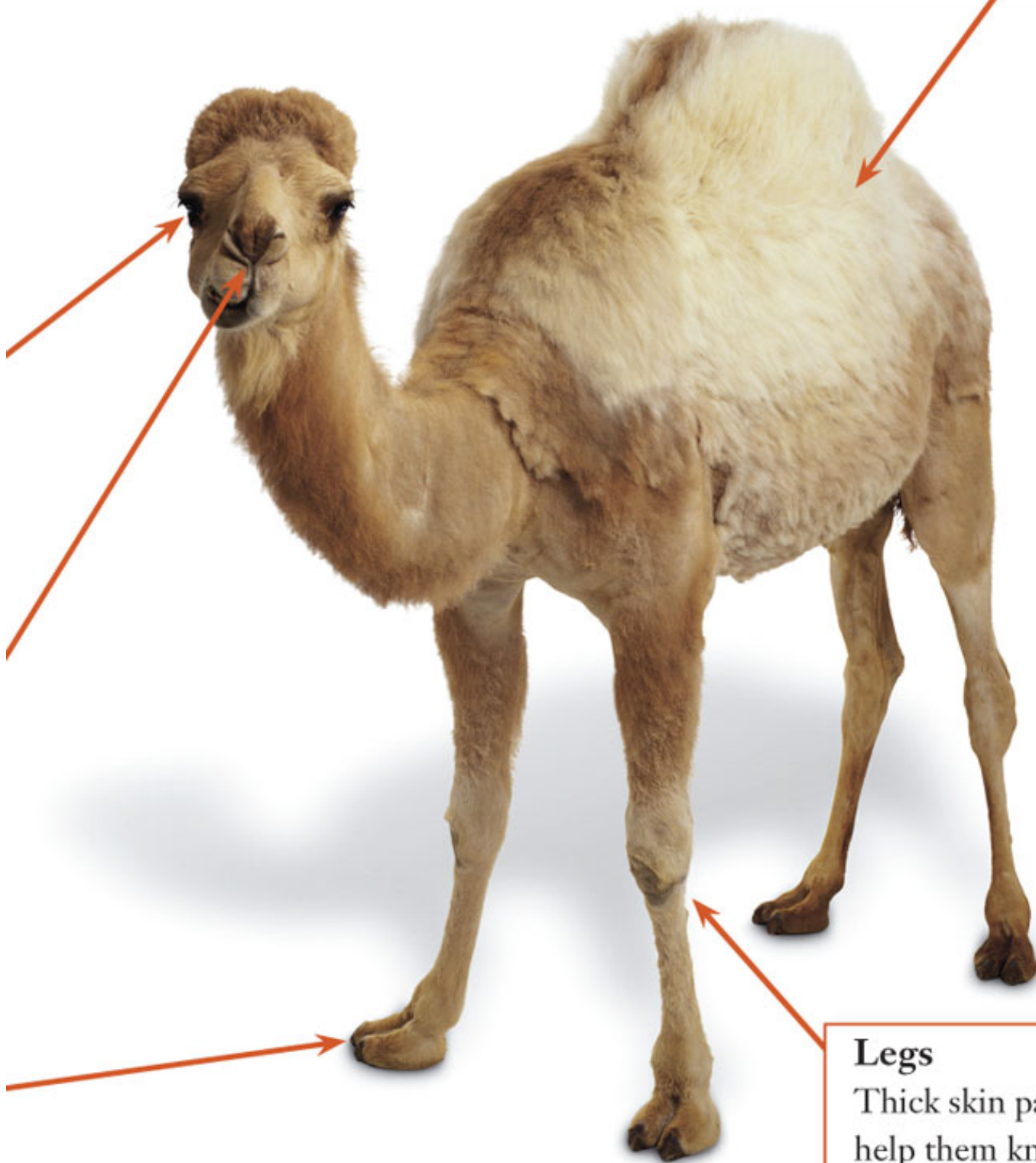
Camels can close their nostrils in a sandstorm.

Feet

Wide, padded feet help camels walk on loose sand.

Hump

A flesh mound stores fat for energy.



Legs

Thick skin pads help them kneel.

Camels are amazing creatures. They can travel for eight hours a day. They can carry 330 pounds or more on their strong backs. However, these “beasts of burden” do not always *want* to carry heavy loads. Sometimes these animals can be very stubborn.





An angry camel will spit at anyone in its vicinity! The spit is from the camel's stomach and smells very, very bad. Camels are also known to bite people they don't like. People who train camels have to learn to deal with this behavior.

There are two main types of camels. The easiest way to tell them apart is to count their humps. Asian camels have two humps. Arabian camels have one hump.

Asian camels come from desert regions in northern China, Russia, and nearby areas. These places have lots of rocky mountains. Temperatures range from very hot to very cold. To live in this rugged climate, Asian camels developed short legs, heavy bodies, and long, thick hair.

Arabian camels are found in the Middle East and the deserts of North Africa. They are taller and lighter than Asian camels. One special kind of Arabian camel is an excellent racer. It can run about 10 miles per hour and travel up to 100 miles in a day!



▲ Asian camel



▲ Arabian camel



Ships of the Desert

In ancient times, major trade routes crossed the deserts of Asia, Arabia, and Africa. Traders needed to carry valuable **goods** across long stretches of dry desert land.

Traders began using camels as their **primary** means of getting goods across the desert. Camels were large and sturdy enough to carry both people and goods.

Camels soon became as important to desert travel as wooden ships were to ocean travel. Camels even became known as “ships of the desert.” They earned that nickname because they sway back and forth when they move, making some riders feel “seasick”!

Traders and their camels traveled in large groups called **caravans**. The caravans brought important goods to far-off towns. There, the traders **bartered**, or traded their goods for other items they needed.



Camels played an important role in helping the trade routes grow. Towns along the trade routes began thriving thanks to the flow of valuable goods and food.

Camels also helped carry ideas and customs across the trade routes. Large **entourages**, or groups of travelers, could cross the desert together. They would share their customs with others they met along their route.

Camels carried people and goods along the Silk Road.





▲ A Tuareg camel caravan

Camels Today

Millions of people in Africa and Asia still use camels for farming and transportation. Camels pull plows. They turn wheels to water fields. They carry grain to market.

Camels are also sources of meat, milk, wool, and leather. Desert people have even used dried camel waste for fuel.



Today, trucks have replaced most of the camel caravans. Trucks can carry heavier loads. They have special tires to move through the sand. They travel faster and farther without a break.

For a group called the Tuareg (TWA-reg), however, old ways continue. Like their ancestors before them, the Tuareg people still carry salt across the desert by camel caravan. Camels are still a very important part of their survival.

Responding

Putting Words to Work

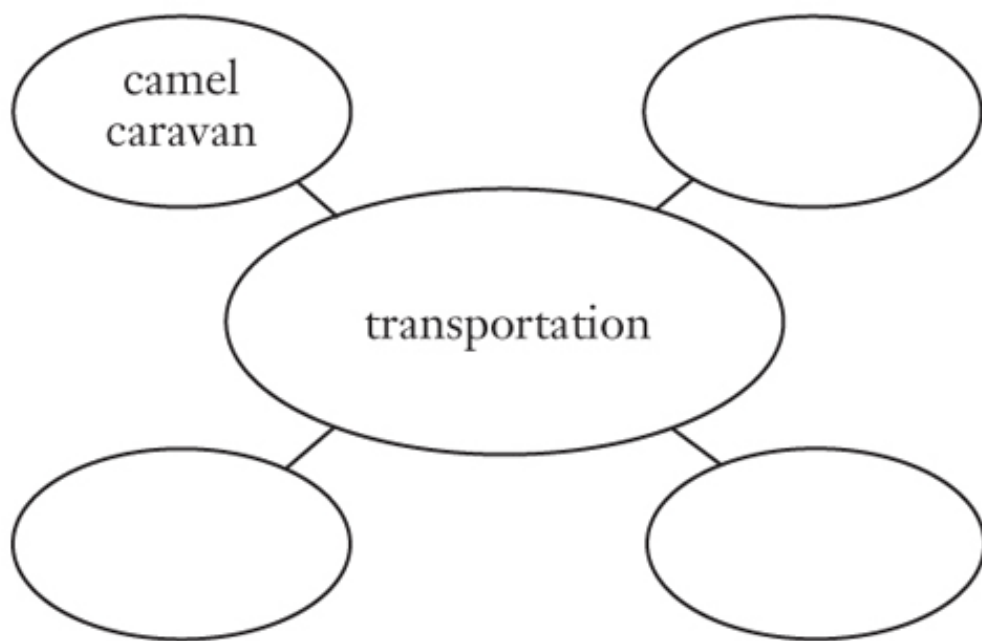
1. Complete this sentence:
The **entourage** of travelers and camels stopped at the **oasis** because _____.
2. What is one detail that explains why camels were useful for carrying **goods**?
3. If a store is not in the **vicinity** of your neighborhood, could you walk there easily? Why or why not?
4. How is **bartering** different from selling?
5. **PARTNER ACTIVITY:** Think of a word you learned in the text. Explain its meaning to your partner and give an example.

Answer to Word Teaser

goods

Word Builder

A camel **caravan** is one form of travel. What are some other forms of transportation? Copy this word web. Add as many kinds of transportation as you can.



Write About It

Write a paragraph describing a trip you would like to take. What kind of transportation would you need? Use at least two words from your Word Builder web.

Key Vocabulary

bartering

caravans

entourage

flourishing

goods

oasis

primary

vicinity

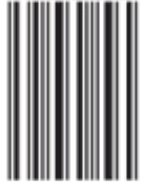
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